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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Letter dated 8 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw to your attention the statement on the murder of Bishop Gerardi in Guatemala issued on 4 May 1998 by the Presidency of the European Union.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) John WESTON
Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom
to the United Nations

* A/53/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the murder of Bishop Gerardi in Guatemala issued on 4 May 1998 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union presents its most profound condolences to the Church and the people of Guatemala over the brutal murder of Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera on 26 April 1998.

The European Union recognizes the valuable work carried out by Bishop Gerardi, who was prominent as a driving force behind the report "Guatemala, Never Again", produced by the inter-diocesan project "Recovery of the Historical Memory".

At the ceremony to mark the delivery of the report on 24 April in the Metropolitan Cathedral, Bishop Gerardi stressed the importance of truth and social justice for national reconciliation. The European Union shares Bishop Gerardi's vision and appeals to all Guatemalans not to allow this cowardly and foul murder to distract them from the full implementation of the peace accords.

The European Union urges the Government of Guatemala to continue to take all steps necessary to ensure a full investigation of the murder in order to bring those responsible to justice.

The European Union also calls upon the Government of Guatemala to support the work of the Truth Commission and to take all appropriate measures to ensure the safety of its members.